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THE BAPTIST

# Record

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## Miss. Baptists leading Bible distribution

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Mississippi may already be known far and wide as one of the leading states in the Southern Baptist Convention, but the Celebrate Jesus 2000 Bible distribution project is taking the state's reputation to new heights.

"Over 468,000 Bibles have been distributed or ordered, as free gifts from Mississippi Baptists. We are the only state in the Southern Baptist Convention that has chosen to do a statewide Bible distribution in connection with the Celebrate Jesus 2000 campaign, and our goal

is to put a Bible in every home in Mississippi," said S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Celebrate Jesus 2000 is an intensive nationwide strategy to intentionally pray for, and share Christ with, every unsaved person in America by the end of the year 2000.

"To achieve this goal, it is imperative that every Christian join in a united effort to pray for and witness to every person in Mississippi who does not know Jesus Christ," Adkins said.

The MBCB, associational offices, and local churches have joined Southern Baptist entities LifeWay Christian Resources, North American Mission

Board, and Woman's Missionary Union to accomplish the lofty Celebrate Jesus 2000 goal in Mississippi. The Southern Baptist entities are providing resource materials.

A total of 55 Mississippi Baptist associations have signed on to the project. Some of the Bibles are being distributed to inmates at the state's main penitentiary at Parchman, and Spanish-language Bibles are also available.

As a matter of fact, almost 10,000 Spanish-language Bibles have been ordered or distributed thus far.

The Bible distribution project got off the ground in Mississippi in the spring of this year, when Bibles were given door-to-door

in the Long Beach area of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"The people who have been involved in the Bible distribution have found that it is quite easy to share their faith, and in many cases it has afforded neighbors the opportunity to talk with neighbors about Jesus Christ.

"We encourage people to get involved by explaining to them, 'If you can read, you can lead,'" Adkins said.

Adkins also pointed to the results he believes the campaign will produce.

"We will be into the year 2000 before we have a clear picture, but my expectation is that we will see an increase in baptisms in Mississippi, due in part to this Bible distribution project.

"I am confident that there will be many other benefits," he said.

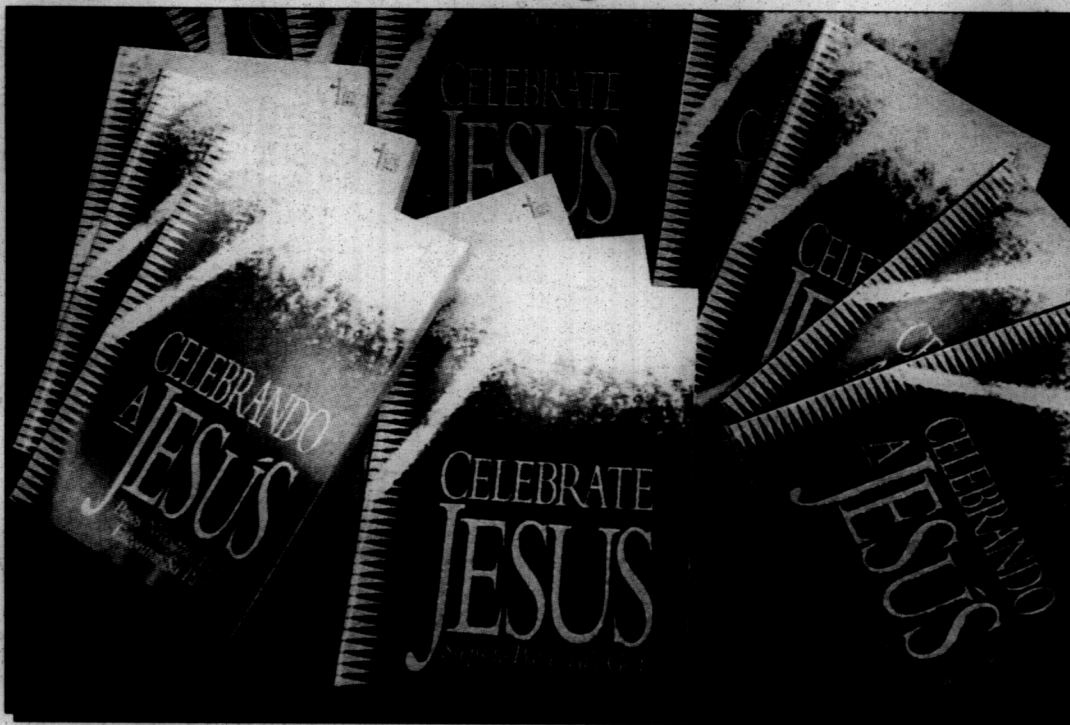
Kay Cassibry, director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), said a large quantity of the Bibles were given away as part of a project headed up by WMU during this past summer's Ladies' Professional Golf Association championship tournament at the Old Waverly golf course outside West Point.

WMU workers also went door-to-door in the West Park neighborhood of Jackson, where they were constructing Habitat for Humanity houses this summer, Cassibry said.

Adkins said more Bibles have been ordered for the next wave of distribution sites, scheduled across the state during the winter and early spring of 2000.

To get involved in a local Bible distribution project, interested parties should contact their associational director of missions. Adkins said if someone doesn't know their associational director of missions, their pastor should be able to give them a name and telephone number.

For more information on the statewide Bible distribution project, contact the MBCB evangelism department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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## '99 Lay Missions Conference to feature Pickering

U.S. District Judge Charles Pickering Sr., a member of First Church, Laurel, and father of Mississippi Congressman Chip Pickering, will present the mission focus during the annual Lay Missions Conference banquet scheduled for 5 p.m. on Oct. 25 at First Church, Brandon.

Jim Didlake, director of the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, stressed that everyone interested in attending the Lay Missions Conference and banquet should note the change in location for this year's event.

The conference and banquet were moved to First Church, Brandon, from its traditional location at First Church, Jackson, in order to make room for an expanded exhibit area during the

Oct. 26-27 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting at the Jackson church.

Mission fellowships and interest conferences will begin at First Church, Brandon, at 3 p.m. on Oct. 25.

Mississippi State Senator Richard White of Terry will lead a conference entitled, "Integrity in Your Marketplace." Other mission conferences include agricultural, construction, educational,

partnership, and Volunteers in Missions. At the Agricultural Missions Fellowship, former Southern Baptist missionary Harold Watson will be the

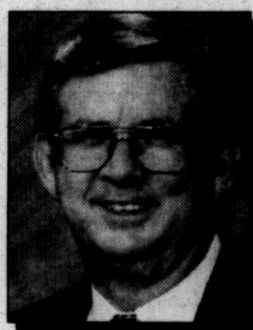
featured speaker.

Watson and his wife Joyce retired recently after serving as missionaries to the Philippines and are now living in Terry.

The Agricultural Missions Fellowship meeting will also include a report on each of the fellowship-supported projects around the world and an election of new officers.

The Lay Missions Conference is free, and no reservations are necessary. Banquet tickets are \$8.50 per person and are available through the Men's Ministry Department.

For more information and to purchase banquet tickets, contact the department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



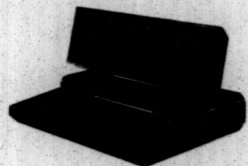
Pickering



Watson



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# Setting our sights on a certain future

**T**he newspaper brought an interesting story last week — interesting because it provided a snapshot of the spiritual state of our culture. On the surface it might not seem so, but look closer.

According to the newspaper story, the United States Postal Service (USPS) has discovered a problem with one of its current promotional programs.

In numerous post offices around the country, USPS workers have installed a rather large clock above or near the service windows. These clocks don't relate the time of day, however.

Second by second, the bright red numerals on the digital clock count down the time remaining until the year 2000.

It seems innocuous enough. After all, the most demanding time of year for the post office is the year-end Christmas season, and most people could use such a gentle reminder to plan ahead.

To their alarm, USPS officials are finding that the countdown clocks are not having the intended effect on a sizable number of customers waiting in line for service. It appears that the clocks are instead reminding people of the looming millennium rollover and all the ominous societal forebodings that have been attached to this simple calendar notation.

Clerks at the USPS service windows where the clock promotion has been used are reporting customers who are more anxious, agitated, and in some cases more aggressive than usual.

It could be that people just get flustered while queued in long lines at places like the post office and the supermarket. In our hurry-up society, Americans can act pretty spoiled when forced to wait for anything.

It would appear in the USPS case, how-

ever, that the longer people stare at the countdown clocks, the more apprehensive they become about the last days before the year 2000. The more apprehensive they become, the more difficult they are when they finally get to the service window.

USPS officials are so concerned that they have ordered the clocks removed in a number of locations where the unsettling behavior of customers has been most pronounced. Obviously, postal officials fear the worse.

Therein lies the snapshot. In this militarily-strong land of plenty where the longest period of prosperity in the history of the nation is currently being enjoyed, are we so unsure of the future that a countdown clock related to a nominal date on the calendar can send us into a frenzy of inappropriate behavior?

Are we so unnerved by our inability to know what's going to happen next that we act inappropriately toward other people? Is this really all it takes to push us over the edge?

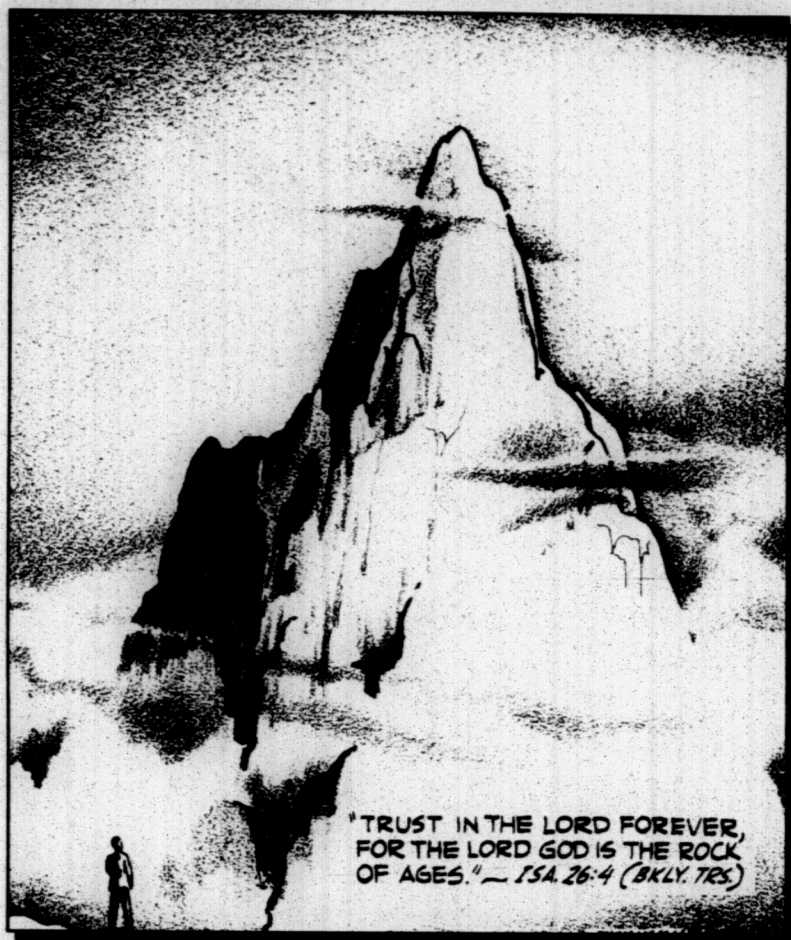
Sounds like a culture that needs Jesus, doesn't it?

To be certain, problems with computers and other concerns surrounding the year 2000 changeover should be taken seriously. Reasonable preparations should be made, but much of the hysteria betrays a people in serious denial about what they really

need to assure their future.

That assurance is found only in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Of course we Christians know that, but how will the rest of the world know unless we are witnesses to them, both in word and deed?

As the countdown continues to the year 2000, God has given our generation of believers a breathtaking opportunity to show the world what it takes to step into uncertain times with the confidence only Jesus can provide. Let's get busy!



## GUEST OPINION:



### *Bivos are special*

By Matt Buckles, director  
Church Adm./Pastoral Ministries  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

**O**ctober 17 is Bivocational Ministers Appreciation Sunday across the Southern Baptist Convention. Bivocational (bivo for short) ministers are a special group of gospel servants. Allow me to reflect on bivo ministers and encourage you to express appreciation to these servants of God.

Two weeks ago I was invited to the MAGIC (Senior Adults) luncheon at the Wildwood Church, Clinton. I sat beside long-time friend and fellow minister J.C. Graves. He and his wife Mary Ann moved from Roxie to Clinton two years ago and are active members at Wildwood. This fellowship caused me to reflect on their contributions to my life.

J.C. was my family's rural mail carrier for many years on Route Two, Roxie. For more than thirty years he also faithfully pastored churches in southwest Mississippi. Mary Ann was my high school English and literature teacher. Early in life I gained a healthy respect for "working preachers" because of J.C. Graves and other bivos.

When I entered my ministry at age 18, he invited me to preach in his church and encouraged me in ministry essentials. I can still remember the day he delivered a box containing the first commentaries

that I ever bought. In life he did more than deliver mail and sermons. He loved God and the churches that he served. We shared a special bond in that our first pastorates were the same church — Hamburg Church, Roxie. He lives a good example of Jesus Christ and touched my life in more ways than any article can express. Thanks, J.C.

Time and space do not permit me to describe other bivos that I know, either from my childhood or in my present work. Bivo ministers are serving God in effective ways across our state.

They hold such significant positions of responsibility and leadership in the market place as principal, teacher, coach, attorney, business owner, elected public official, office manager, investment and bank officer, salesman, medical personnel, law enforcement officer, contractor, service/repair person, journalist, and many other varied works. I have learned from my travel and ministry around the state that our bivos hold significant positions!

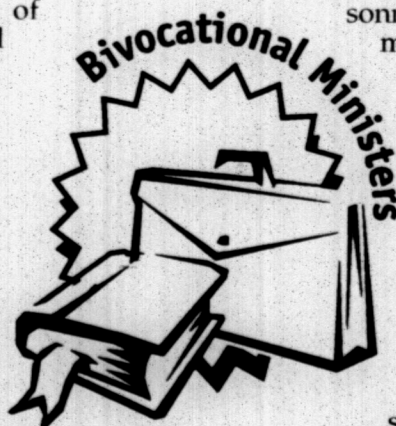
Many bivo ministers choose a dual career ministry.

Others have it chosen for them because they serve smaller membership churches. If it were not for bivocational ministers, most of our smaller membership churches would have to close their doors. Also, many additional staff positions would go unfilled. Bivos are essential to the ministry of our churches in Mississippi.

If your pastor and/or staff members are bivocational, encourage them in some special way. Should Bivocational Appreciation Sunday not be appropriate, find a time that your church can say "thanks." The Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has developed some bivocational materials and pastor/staff recognition brochures. These materials contain suggestions on how to say thanks and to better understand bivo ministry.

Encourage all ministers of the gospel. Let them know of your prayers and appreciation because they deliver more than mail, goods, services, and sermons. They give their lives for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Buckles can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3308 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: mbuckles@mbcb.org.





# Baptists send 36,000 blankets to refugees

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — More than 36,000 blankets, a love gift from Southern Baptists, set sail for Kosovo Sept. 30, said Jean McDaniel, transportation freight specialist at the International Mission Board.

The blankets were sealed in 12 40-foot containers and loaded onto the SL Meteor docked in Norfolk, Va., for the three-week trip ahead. From there the ship was to travel to New York, then across the Atlantic to offload in Thessaloniki, Greece.

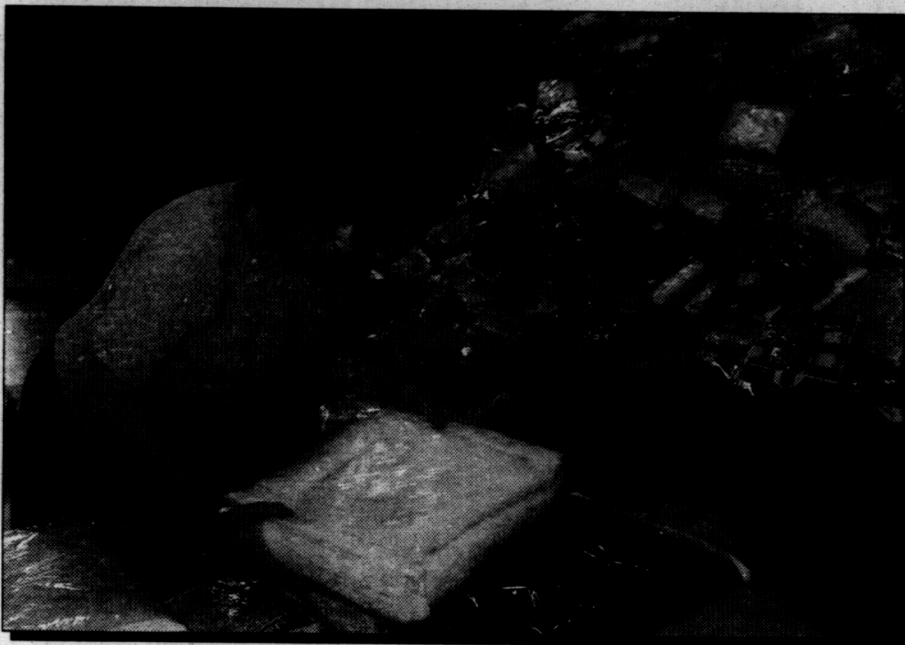
A trucking company will carry the blankets across Macedonia and into Pristina, the Yugoslav province's capital, where warehouses are waiting.

"In my wildest imagination, I couldn't have imagined the response this big in such a short time," McDaniel said. "It's unreal."

The "Blanket Kosovo With Love" project began in August as the board's response to thousands of ethnic Albanian refugees returning to Kosovo and facing a harsh winter climate similar to America's Colorado Rockies.

"It will start getting cold in October, and those affected by the war face a long winter with little protection from the cold," said Jim Brown, the board's human needs consultant.

As many as 860,000 Kosovar



**WARM GIFT** — More than 36,000 blankets set sail on a three-week trip to Kosovo on Sept. 30. Jean McDaniel (above), transportation freight specialist at the International Mission Board, helped pack the blankets into 12 40-foot containers, which were then loaded onto a ship at Norfolk, Va. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

Albanians fled or were expelled from the province of Yugoslavia in the spring. The vast majority returned to find their homes destroyed by Serbs or damaged by NATO bombs.

The blankets, all new and made of wool, Vellux, or with a thermal weave, were each labeled "Zoti ju bekoft," or "God loves you" in Albanian,

and "Southern Baptists in America's Love Gift to Kosovo" on brightly colored tags.

McDaniel was touched by the quality and care put into the blankets. "There were baby blankets, children's blankets," she said. "People had crocheted blankets. There were hand-made quilts."

She recalls a Southern

Baptist who said local churches literally "cleaned out every blanket" in the stores in his town for the drive.

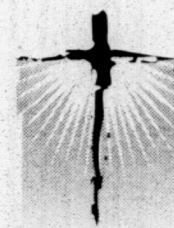
McDaniel said shipments, coordinated by Baptist Men and Woman's Missionary Union leaders in each state, came from all over the country — Wyoming, Indiana, even flood-ravaged North Carolina.

"One of the trucks was completely packed," she said. "There were blankets everywhere, ...even under the seats."

Southern Baptists give generously and sacrificially when it comes to reaching the world for Christ, Brown noted.

Since shipping costs are expected to total more than \$40,000, funds that trickle in past the Sept. 15 cut-off date are welcomed, said McDaniel.

Money also will be used to purchase new blankets on the field. Checks can be sent to International Mission Board, Hunger and Relief Fund Kosovo Blanket Project, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.



MISSISSIPPI  
**BAPTISTS**

**THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

**THE BAPTIST**  
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## 2000 LifeWay VBS theme: "God's faithfulness"

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — God's faithfulness will be the focus of Vacation Bible School materials for 2000, using the theme, "The Fantastic Good News Ocean Odyssey: Diving Into the Depths of God's Faithfulness."

The 2000 VBS materials "will take boys and girls, teenagers, and men and women on an incredible excursion through an underwater world of wonders," according to the description of the theme.

Bill Taylor, director of LifeWay Christian Resources' Sunday school group which produces VBS materials, said, "At a time when there is so much fear among children, this emphasis on God's love and care could not be more appropriate."

"We feel this will be the best VBS offering we've ever had," Taylor said, predicting, "Churches will love the Bible studies. The worship services and mission studies will be so exciting that thousands of children will be drawn to this event."

Rob Sanders, biblical studies specialist in LifeWay's children's Sunday school ministry department, said, "Vacation Bible School is an entry point to church Christianity for many

unchurched people, so it must be comfortable, enjoyable and appeal-

ing to this target audience. Vacation Bible School gives the church the opportunity to establish long-term relationships with these people."

Also, he noted, "Vacation Bible School must provide challenging experiences that continue to stimulate spiritual growth for church people."

Resources will be available Dec. 1, including the "VBS Scuba Sampler." To order materials, call 1-800-458-2772 or visit a LifeWay Christian Store.

Information about VBS 2000 is available on the Internet at [www.lifeway.com/yourvbs](http://www.lifeway.com/yourvbs).



### Preschoolers' Bible announced

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Holman Bible Publishers and the preschool Sunday School ministry department at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention have joined forces to produce the "Read to Me Bible for Kids." Designed for the age range of newborn through kindergarten, the Read to Me Bible for Kids features the easy-to-read New International Reader's Version text, 30 full-page/full-color Bible illustrations, and corresponding stories and Bible vocabulary/Bible verse highlight sections. Study resources include support pages for parents and teachers suggesting effective ways of sharing the Bible with a young audience.

Executive Editor Thomas Sanders also said the Read to Me Bible for Kids fulfills his department's need to have a suitable child-friendly, long-lasting Bible that his staff can rely heavily upon when developing future Sunday School materials. The Read to Me Bible for Kids is available through LifeWay Christian Stores and many other outlets.

Other current and upcoming Holman releases include the "True Love Waits Bible" with commentary from James Dobson, Max Lucado, and Josh McDowell, the "Celebrate Jesus! Millennium Bible" featuring daily devotionals from respected author Calvin Miller, and available Dec. 1, the "TruthQuest Inductive Student Bible" for teenagers, edited by youth minister Steve Keels.

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

Kentucky's Zion Association votes 92-20 to withdraw fellowship from First Church, Corbin, because of the church's practice of electing and ordaining women deacons. "We hold no ill will," says John Dunaway, First Church, Corbin, pastor and former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

#### 20 years ago

College students gathered at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, for the annual student convention, hear Mississippian Jerry Rankin, foreign missionary to Indonesia, and approve a \$60,000 summer missions budget to send 75 students to nine countries and 27 states.

#### 50 years ago

Louie Farmer, BSU Secretary at Clarke College and one of 15 Mississippians to attend the Baptist World Youth Congress in Stockholm, Sweden, gives a report of the meeting to Newton Church. Farmer said the meeting brought together Baptist youth from 26 countries.



# 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention

October 26-27, 1999 • Celebrating God's Timeless Word • First Church, Jackson

## MC to host health fair during MBC

Mississippi College (MC) senior nursing students will host a health fair from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Oct. 26 during the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) 1999 annual meeting at First Church, Jackson. The health fair will be located on the fourth floor of the church's education wing, and will include:

- free flu shots.
- blood pressure screenings.
- blood counts.
- glucose screenings.
- health information on cancer, weight loss, exercise, home safety, depression, stroke prevention, and heart health.

## Pictorial directory scheduled

A pictorial directory of Mississippi Baptist ministers, associational directors of missions, and state convention employees will be produced during the Mississippi Baptist Convention's 1999 annual meeting at First Church, Jackson. The photographs will be taken on the stage of the church's Fellowship Hall East, beginning the morning of October 25 and running through the end of the annual meeting on October 27. Ministers and their families are invited to participate. Participants will receive a complimentary photo package, a family photo, and a pictorial directory free of charge.

### Tuesday, October 26 - First Session (a.m.)

8:25	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, FBC, Jackson
8:30	Sounding of the Gavel	Dean Register
8:35	Praise: Congregation & Worship Team	Paul Koonce & Worship Team
		Temple, Hattiesburg
8:50	Scripture Celebration: John 1:1-18	Janet Pope
	Prayer	Keith Cating
9:00	Organization of the Convention	
	Recognition and Seating of Messengers	Dean Register
	Recognition of Special Guests & Correspondence	Dean Register
	Report of Committee on Order of Business	Slater Murphy
	Tellers and Credentials Committees	Dean Register
	Welcome	FBC, Jackson
9:10	Bible Treasure: Celebrating God's Timeless Word	Calvin Miller
	<i>Nehemiah 8:1-10</i>	
9:25	Report of Committee on Committees	Charles Pickering
9:30	Presentation of Resolutions	
9:40	Congregational Praise	Paul Koonce
9:45	Celebration Moment	Danko Velichkovski
10:00	Convention Board Report	Jerry Mixon
10:10	Praise: Congregation & Worship Team	Paul Koonce
10:15	Message: "Running the Christian Race"	Fred Luter
	<i>Hebrews 12:1-2</i>	
10:40	Election of President	Dean Register
11:00	Praise Worship Team	Temple, Hattiesburg
11:05	President's Address	Dean Register
11:35	Benediction	Bill Kirkpatrick

### Tuesday, October 26 - Second Session (p.m.)

1:30	Choral Praise	First Singers, FBC, Laurel
1:40	Sounding of the Gavel	Kenneth Rhodes
	Congregational Praise	Jimmy Little
	Scripture Celebration: Hebrews 11:1-40	Janet Pope
	Prayer	June Scoggins
1:50	Results of Election of President	Dean Register
	<i>(followed by second ballot if needed)</i>	
1:55	Celebration Moment	Nagen Bellare
2:10	Bible Treasure: Celebrating God's Timeless Word	Calvin Miller
	<i>Nehemiah 8:1-10</i>	
2:25	Business Session	Dean Register
	Presentation of 2000 Budget	Gary Richardson
	Election of Convention Officers	Dean Register
	Presentation of Resolutions	
	Miscellaneous Business	Dean Register
2:45	Congregational Praise	Jimmy Little
2:50	Baptist Children's Village Report	Ronny Robinson
3:00	Business Session	Dean Register
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Report of Constitution and Bylaws Committee	
	Miscellaneous Business	
3:35	Congregational Praise	Jimmy Little
3:40	Report of Board of Ministerial Education	James A. Hurt, Jr.
3:45	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir, FBC, Laurel
4:00	Convention Sermon	Randy Turner
	<i>"Our Mission for the New Millennium" Matthew 6:33</i>	
4:30	Benediction	Ed Abel

### Tuesday, October 26 - Third Session (p.m.)

6:25	Instrumental and Choral Praise and Worship	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
		Dean Register
7:00	Sounding of the Gavel	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
	Choral Praise	Graham Smith
	Congregational Praise	Janet Pope
	Scripture Celebration: I Peter 1:1-25	Nancy Aulds
	Prayer	
7:10	Final Presentation of Resolutions	
7:15	Recognition of Guests, Missionaries & New Workers	Dean Register
	<i>(missionaries will be asked to stand)</i>	
7:30	Partnership Missions	Paul Harrell
7:50	Congregational Praise	Graham Smith
7:55	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
8:00	Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Emphasis	Jim Futral
8:45	Benediction	Tim Glaze

### Wednesday, October 27 - Fourth Session (a.m.)

8:25	Choral Praise	Mississippi College Concert Singers
		James Meaders
8:35	Sounding of the Gavel	Paul Blanchard
8:40	Choral Praise	Mississippi College Concert Singers
8:50	Congregational Praise	Richard Joiner
	Scripture Celebration: Philippians 4:1-23	Janet Pope
	Prayer	Lloyd Luncford
9:00	Celebration Moment	Bruce Brady, Sr.
9:15	Memorial Service	Louis Smith
9:25	Report of Christian Education	Randy Turner
9:30	Choral Praise	Mississippi College Concert Singers
9:35	Introduction of College Presidents	Dean Register
	Report from Mississippi College	Howell Todd
9:40	Business Session	Dean Register
	Adoption of 2000 Budget	Gary Richardson
	Report of Committee on Nominations	Jay Richardson
	Time, Place, and Preacher Committee Report	James Richardson
	Resolutions Committee Report	Gordon H. Sansing
	Miscellaneous Business	
10:30	Congregational Praise	Richard Joiner
10:35	Choral Praise	Mississippi College Concert Singers
10:45	Message	Leslie Clark
	<i>"The Wonder of God's Word" - Psalm 19:7-8</i>	
11:15	Benediction	Tom McLaughlin

## Details released for '99 Miss. Baptist Convention

### Registration

Registration for the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson, will be on the second floor above the State Street entrance, just outside the Sanctuary. The registration area can be directly accessed from the Skywalk over State Street. For safety reasons, crossing State Street below the Skywalk is strongly discouraged. Pedestrians should cross State Street at the traffic signal located at the intersection of State and Mississippi Streets.

Volunteers from First Church, Jackson, will begin registering messengers at noon on Monday, Oct. 25, and at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 26. Registration will close for the day on both Oct. 25-26 at the beginning of the night sessions. On Oct. 27, registration will be open from 8-10 a.m.

### Telephone access/lost and found

A telephone for outgoing calls will be available on the second floor across from the registration area. Long distance calls require a credit card. Messages may be left for convention attendees by calling (601) 949-1924 during convention sessions. A lost and found booth will also be staffed in this area.

### Preschool care

Preschool-age child care will be available during the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention by completing the following process:

1. **Pre-registration is required.** To pre-register, contact the First Church, Jackson, preschool ministry during regular business hours at (601) 949-1904.
2. Upon arriving, sign in children and pick up security cards at the preschool ministry entrance on ground level off State Street. The preschool entrance is accessed by using the one way drive-through at the intersection of State and College Streets.
3. Label all belongings. For infants, leave written feeding schedule.
4. Children must arrive no earlier than 20 minutes before each session begins and must be picked up no later than 20 minutes after the close of each session. Children may remain in the preschool area during the convention lunch break on Oct. 26 if parents provide a snack lunch.

*Note: A child will be released only to the adult in possession of the security card assigned to that particular child.*

### Parking

Since parking is extremely limited around First Church, Jackson, messengers and guests of the 1999 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are encouraged to park at Gate 3 of the Mississippi State Fairgrounds.

Shuttle vans will be available to and from First Church, beginning with the first sessions on Monday, Oct. 25 and ending with the final session on Wednesday, Oct. 27.

Those attending the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention are cautioned against over-parking on meters and other illegal parking. Improperly parked cars may be towed in severe cases.



# IMB appoints number of Mississippians

RICHMOND, Va. — Higdon (Boyd) and Andrea S. Eves Herrington, D. Bradley (Brad) and Tammy Cline Thompson, and Shirley Thompson Whittington have joined the more than 4,800 Southern Baptist International Mission Board workers sharing Christ in 122 countries and among 336 ethnic people groups.

They were among 58 people appointed by the International Mission Board Sept. 19 during a service at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita, Kan.

The Herringtons focus will be starting churches in Thailand. The primary objective of the International Mission Board teams in Thailand is to evangelize and facilitate church planting movements among the nation of 60 million people.

Recently, Boyd was the pastor of Grace Church, Richland, and Andrea was a secretary at New Orleans Seminary. Other churches that have been influential to their spiritual growth are First Church, Mathiston; First Church, Golden Meadow, La.; and Temple Church, Newport News, Va.

Boyd was born in Fort Worth, Texas, to parents Higdon and Hellen Herrington. He considers Mathiston his hometown, where his father pastored First Church. Andrea considers Newport News, Va., her hometown.

The Thompsons will work in Senegal in agricultural evangelism. They will be working to reach out to the Tukulor people, a culture that associates themselves with the 23 million Fulani who live in West Africa.

Brad currently is finishing his degree at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and working as the supervisor of landscaping at the seminary. Tammy was a public school teacher before she began to stay at home with her children.

Brad was born in New Johnsonville, Tenn., to parents Larry and Barbara Thompson. He considers Jackson, Tenn., his hometown. Tammy was born in El Paso, Texas, to Tom and the late Ruth Cline. She was raised in Jackson, where she attended Broadmoor Church.

Brad received his bachelor of science in agriculture from Mississippi State University in Starkville.

Whittington will work in Germany where, for at least 97% of Germans, church is a place where their cultural history can

be viewed but not a place where a living God may be met and worshipped. Her job will involve bookkeeping and accounting.

She recently retired as a budget and fiscal clerk with the Department of Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Jackson. She attends Harmony Church, Crystal Springs.

Shirley was born and raised in Crystal

Springs to Vera and Willard Thompson (both deceased).

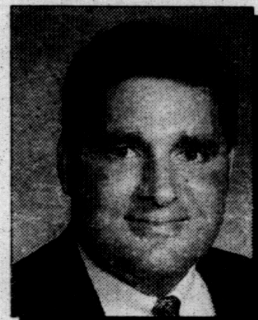
With nearly 16 million members, the Southern Baptist Convention is the largest evangelical denomination in the United States; its International Mission Board is the largest evangelical missionary-sending agency.



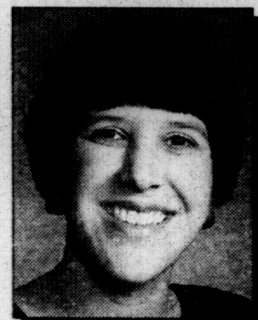
B. Herrington



A. Herrington



B. Thompson



T. Thompson



Whittington

## New edition of Vessels focuses on partnerships

The newest edition of Vessels: A Video Magazine, focuses on three Mississippi Baptist partnership mission opportunities and will be available to churches, associations, and individuals on Oct. 18, according to Farrell Blankenship, director of Broadcast Services for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Vessels is a production of the MBCB church information support team. The 30-minute program presents the work of Mississippi Baptists across the state and around the world.

In this edition, the first segment tells of the "Building West Park with Love" project this past summer involving the work of state and national Women's Missionary Union volunteers who, in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity, built two houses in inner city Jackson and organized various mission projects in the neighborhood, from Backyard Bible Clubs to sports camps.

Ed Deuschle, consultant in the MBCB evangelism department, shares the plan of salvation in the Two Minute Witness.

In the final three segments, Vessel's video crews travel south to Honduras, across the ocean to Ukraine, and north to Maryland and Delaware, reporting on Mississippi Baptists' current partnership programs.

Vessels will be shown on cable systems throughout the state in early November through the ACTS network. A listing of showing dates and times will be released at a later time.

Vessels is also available to churches for use on Sunday evening, Wednesday evening, for missions groups, or any meeting where people are interested in learning more about partnership missions and how Mississippi Baptists are helping bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

In addition to the latest release of Vessels, there are five previous issues, each with heart-stirring stories about how Mississippi Baptists are at work.

For more information on Vessels, or to request a videotape copy, contact Blankenship at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3378, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651.

For more information on partnership missions opportunities, contact partnership missions director Paul Harrell at the above address and toll-free telephone number or (601) 292-3398.



### A CRYSTAL BALL

Now that the millennial countdown has gone from years, to months, to weeks — and now to days — more and more people are getting out their crystal balls trying to see into the future. For the most part, our prognostications are educated guesses and in some cases they are simply opinions. In a few incidences, the view of the future seems to border on, if not the ignorant, the absurd.

One man wrote that we are on the verge of all-out war with Mars. His reasoning was based on the fact that our Mars space probe that was recently lost, did not burn up as was reported but actually was attacked by the Martians. Now, he reasoned, they were going to unleash an all-out attack on us in the new millennium. With this observation, he made some predictors of doom look like optimists.

In the past few days I have had the privilege of looking into the future. I did not gaze into a crystal ball, or carry out a



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

search on the Internet. I looked into the faces of young people at our Mississippi Baptist colleges as they prepare their lives for missions and ministry. It was my privilege to speak to the church-related vocation students at Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Mississippi College in Clinton, and William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

At each gathering on our three campuses, I was struck with the thought that I wished you could be there. I thought if you, each and every Mississippi Baptist, could just see these outstanding young people — look into their eyes, listen as they talk about their call and commitment, and reflect on the vibrancy

of their dedication — you could not help but be inspired. These young men and women, hundreds of them, have heard the call of the Lord Jesus to "come follow me." They have responded with an obedient and enthusiastic, "Yes, Lord!"

While all 700,000 Mississippi Baptists could not attend these meetings, it is only right that I ask you to at least go along with me and catch a glimpse of this glorious scene. Strange, isn't it, that two young men with a warped view of life, God, and others, can walk into a high school in Colorado and by their actions grab the headlines of the media around the world for months and months? Yet hundreds of young

people in our state with a genuine spiritual depth and a positive desire to serve the Lord go unnoticed. Sadly, for the most part in our world today, "if news is not bad news, it is not news." That may be true for many who are selling newspapers or magazines, but I am convinced that Heaven watches these Christian kids with great delight.

For those who can only look into the future through cynical glasses, who look at the church and only see despair, who look at our colleges and only see hopelessness, who read the headlines and think that is all there is — I offer you this rebuttal. It appears to me that Jesus Christ, who has done great things amongst us in the past, is in the process of preparing for an even greater future. He has chosen to place the work of his Kingdom into the hands of some of the finest, brightest, best-spirited young people you can imagine. They are our young people, they are his servants, and they deserve our continued prayers, interest, encouragement, and support.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**Young Musicians of  
First Church, Inverness**

Members of the Student Ministry at First Church, Coldwater, participated in a Campus Prayer Walk the night before "See You At The Pole." They went to six campuses to pray for the salvation, safety, and spiritual growth of the students at each school.

**Belden Church, Lee Association**, celebrated the ten-year anniversary of Don Baggett, pastor, on Sept. 5. A "This is Your Life" program was presented complete with current and past church members, ministry associates, and friends. The church presented Baggett with a commemorative plaque and vacation to Billy Graham's "The Cove" retreat center in North Carolina. Pictured with Baggett is his wife Anne.



**The Baggetts**

**First Church, Inverness**, recently sent a group of girls to the Young Musicians' Camp at Blue Mountain College. Pictured (from left) are Melonie Beckham; Jennifer Wilson; Christian Weeks; Lacy Foster; Lindsey Barrett; Kristen Cauley; Anna Thompson King; and Linda A. Prater, minister of music.

**Judgment House** The Choice: Heaven or Hell, will be presented at Wellman Church, Lincoln Association on Oct. 22, 23, 29, and 30, from 6-11 p.m.; and Oct. 24 and 31, from 5-9 p.m. For more information call the church office at 601-833-4144.



**First Church, Lexington**, proclaimed Sept. 19 to be "Jack Farmer Day." Farmer was honored for his 29 years of service as the chairman of the building and grounds committee. He was presented a plaque and treated to lunch after the worship service. Pictured (from left) are James Carroll, building committee member; Farmer, now building committee consultant; and Doug Applegate, pastor of First Church, Lexington.



**ALL SIZES  
SALES AND RENTALS**

### CHURCH BUSES

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COMPETITIVE PRICING**

**SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.**

**CLINTON, MS**

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**-1-601-924-1982**



**Emmanuel Church, Grenada**, recently held ground breaking ceremonies for its new facility. The new church will feature a 1,400-seat auditorium and an education building that will handle 1,000 people. A family activities building will be built behind the worship center. The buildings will have a combined 82,000 square feet. The members of the building committee present for the ground breaking were (from left) Eugene Heimbach; Gary Worsham; Terry Hutchins; Randy Harrell; George Byrd; Clarence Cooper, pastor; Curley England; Wayne Harlow; and Barry Worrell.

**Judgment House** will be presented by the student ministry of First Church, Summit, Oct. 28-31. Performance times are 6:30-11 p.m. each night. Judgment House is an eight-scene walk-

through drama, which effectively presents the gospel of Jesus Christ through a relevant and gripping story. Call (601) 276-2396 to make reservations, drop-ins are welcome.



**RAs of Meadowood, Amory**, recently held its annual year-end awards banquet. Each RA was presented with the badges that he had earned for the year. Programs carried out were soup for shut-ins; Tchula food pantry and Christmas missions; Dismal Canyon hike; father/son camp-out; Habitat for Humanity missions in Jackson; RA racer day; gun safety class; and RA camp at Central Hills. They placed overall first in the state at Lad and Crusader Day, Central Hills.

### Exciting Career in Christian Retail Management

Excellent salary and benefits package available. Relocation will be required to one of over 80 book stores. Qualifications include: four-year college degree or comparable business management experience, outstanding leadership, computer skills, strong vision for the future, and active role in a Southern Baptist church. Send resume to:

**Manager Training Search**  
127 9th Avenue, North, MSN 121  
Nashville, TN 37234-0121  
E-mail: HRDept@lifeway.com

**Baptist Book Stores**  
**Lifeway Christian Stores**  
owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

### Revival results

**Escatawpa, Escatawpa:** Sept. 26-29; 48 professions of faith and five rededications; Donnie Guy, evangelist; Bob Chichester, music; Greg Johnston, pastor.

Call for Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
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1-800-251-0679  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415



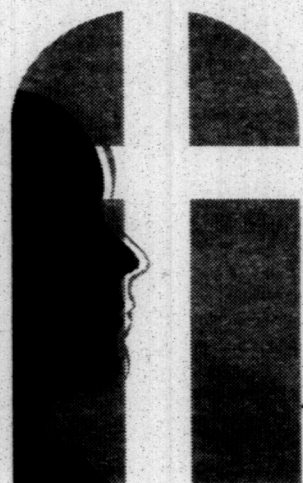
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 14, 1999

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication**.



## Baptist Doctrine Study 2000

Foundations of the Faith:  
The Doctrines Baptists Believe  
Dr. Roy T. Edgemon

### Preview and Brunch 9 a.m. - noon

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly .....January 31, 2000  
led by Don Atkinson  
Camp Garaywa .....February 1, 2000  
led by Roy T. Edgemon  
Central Hills Baptist Retreat .....February 3, 2000  
led by Roy T. Edgemon

Sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry  
For more information, call (601)968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

## Lay Missions Conference

### INTEGRITY In Your Marketplace *Does It Make a Difference?*

**Monday, October 25, 1999**

First Baptist Church, Brandon  
\$8.50 per person  
Conferences 3 p.m., Banquet 5 p.m.

### Keynote Speaker

Hon. Charles Pickering, Sr.  
United States District Judge

#### Missions Interest Conferences

- Agricultural
- Partnership
- Educational
- Volunteers
- Construction Projects
- Integrity in your Marketplace

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ dinner reservations @\$8.50 ea.

MAIL TO: MEN'S MINISTRY DEPARTMENT, MBCB, MISSIONS BANQUET  
P.O. Box 530, JACKSON, MS 39205-0530

## PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



### CONFERENCE October 25, 1999

3:00 p.m.  
First Baptist Church  
Brandon, Miss.

#### Featuring

- "Ark Singers" from Oginskogo, Ukraine
- New Partnership video - Vessels
- Testimonies
  - Maryland/Delaware ....Bill Duncan
  - Ukraine .....Pat Sullivan
  - Honduras.....Dan Robertston
- Impact Northeast Challenge  
Charles Barnes
- Missions Challenge .....Alberto Herrera  
Honduras
- Missions Focus 2000 .....Paul Harrell

*If you have been on a mission project this year  
we invite you to come.*

### CELEBRATION November 12-13, 1999

**Friday, November 12, First Baptist Church, 425 North State Street, Jackson**

#### Featuring:

- Celebration Banquet - 6:30 p.m. • Partnership Displays by Participants
- Music/Testimonies • Video Presentation on Partnerships
- New Opportunities in Honduras - Armando Meza • Being on Mission - Jim Futral

**Saturday, November 13, Baptist Building, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson**

#### Featuring:

- Continental Breakfast - 7:45-8:30 a.m. • Devotional and Worship
- Partnering in Medical/Dental Missions - Jim Williams
- Break Out Sessions by Partnerships: Ukraine - Gene Gillis, Honduras - Jake Rayburn/Norman Bailey, Maryland/Delaware - Julius Thompson

The Partnership Missions Celebration is open to anybody interested in missions.

Banquet cost: \$10, Reservations are required. Call 601-292-3398 by November 5.

For more information contact the Partnership Missions Department  
(601)968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES

**First Baptist Church, Jackson**  
**Monday, October 25, 1:00-4:30 p.m.**

### AGENDA

- 1:00-1:15 p.m. Registration (5th floor lobby outside elevators - FBC, Jackson)
- 1:15-1:30 p.m. Welcome and Get Acquainted
- 1:30-2:45 p.m. First Session - Carol Ann Draper
- 2:45-3:15 p.m. Fellowship - Sponsored by WMU, MBCB  
Greetings - Shirley Futral
- 3:15-4:30 p.m. Second Session - Carol Ann Draper

*Carol Ann Draper, Nashville, and wife of Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Carol Ann understands what it means to be a pastor's wife because Jimmy served churches in Texas and Missouri.*

Sponsored by: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department  
D. Matt Buckles, Director, G. Keith Gordon, Consultant  
For more info call 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800



## MissionsQuest Weekend

MissionQuest from the inside out  
**Camp Garaywa**

November 19-20, Friday 5:30 p.m. - Saturday 2 p.m.

**\$27.50 per person** (includes meals, lodging, limited insurance, program fees)

- Hear D.P. Smith, Missionary to West Africa
- Hear Acteens Working on Missions Quest
- Activities for all age levels
- Learn how you can participate

**All Acteens  
and their  
advisors  
are invited.**

### MissionQuest Weekend Registration Form (Deadline November 5)

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact person \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$27.50 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB)

Send to: MissionsQuest Weekend, WMU Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

For more info, call the State WMU Office at 1-800-748-1651 (in state) or 1-601-292-3316

## The Suit Project

### What is it?

For over 35 years Baptists in Mississippi have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas. This is our way of letting the Southern Baptist pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know that we care about and support them in their work. This year we are assisting pastors in the Nevada and New England Conventions.



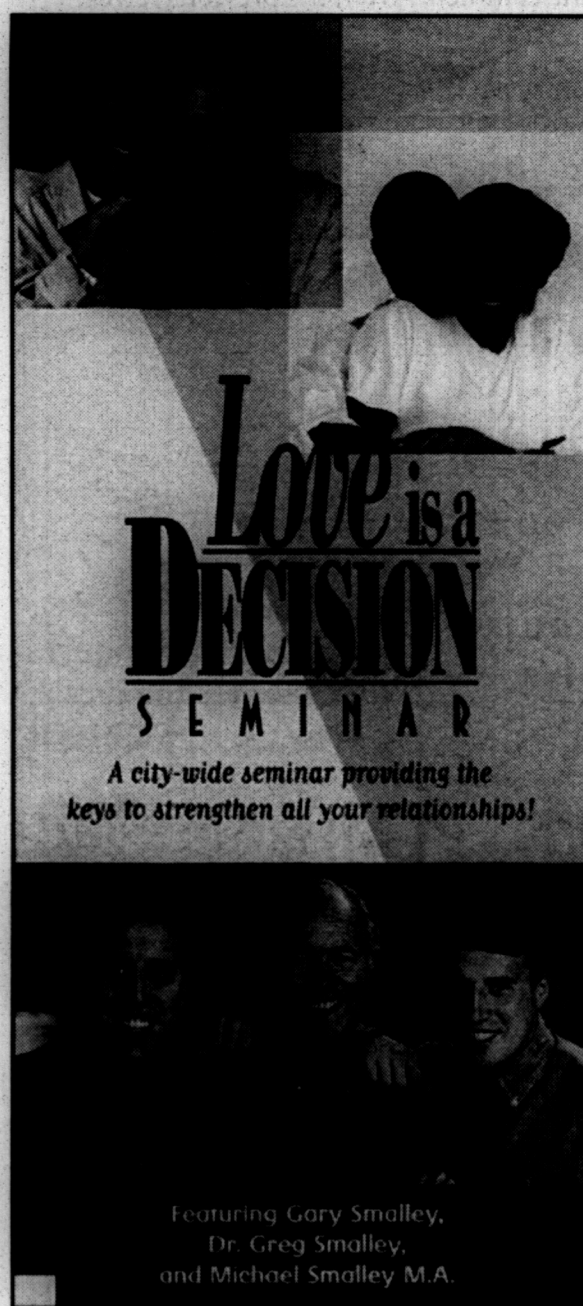
### What can you do?

Men's Ministries groups, individuals, churches, etc. can send their gifts payable to:  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Attention: Men's Ministry Department  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

**Cost: \$130 per suit**

Designate your check: "Suit Project"

**Mississippi  
Baptists  
say  
"Merry  
Christmas"  
to pastors  
in the  
Nevada  
and  
New England  
Conventions.**



A city-wide seminar providing the  
keys to strengthen all your relationships!

Featuring Gary Smalley,  
Dr. Greg Smalley,  
and Michael Smalley M.A.

**November 5-6  
First Baptist Church  
Jackson (1-800-848-6329)**

### Seminar Topics

1. The five levels of intimate communication in marriage or friendships.
2. Love Skill #1: Honor.
3. Discover the tremendous value of your unique personality in all of your relationships.
4. Love Skill #2: A powerful communication method.
5. Love Skill #3: Top relational needs of your mate.
6. The power of emotional word pictures.
7. Discover the secret to finding and maintaining peace in your relationships.

Register by mail or phone:

Smalley Relationship Center  
1482 Lakeshore Drive, Branson, MO 65616  
1-417-335-4321 or 1-800-848-6329

Sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry  
Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention  
Board. For info call 1-800-748-1651 or 1-601-968-3800.

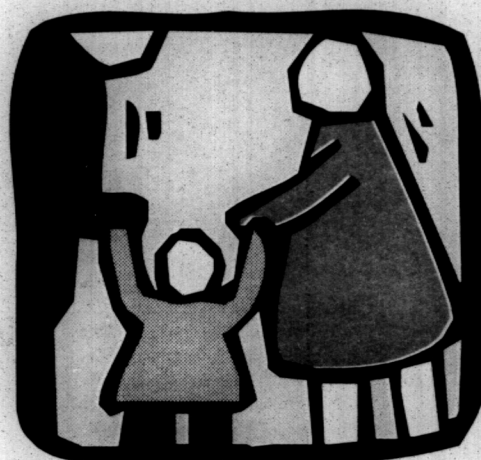


**Tuesday, November 9**  
**Mt. Vernon Baptist Church**  
**Columbus, 7-9 p.m.**

- *Single Adults - Larry Garner*
- *Senior Adults - Glenn Shows*
- *Marriage - Ron Mumbower*
- *Parenting - Karen Overstreet*

*Sponsored by the Golden Triangle Association  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board*

## Family Conferences



**Monday, November 15**  
**First Baptist Church**  
**Louisville, 7-9 p.m.**

- *Senior Adults - Glenn Shows*
- *Marriage - Jim Blackwell*
- *Parenting - Don Hicks*

*Sponsored by the Winston Association  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board*



### "Transformed - Take The Stand"

October 22-23, 1999



Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian



Calling all women to be transformed  
by God's amazing love and to be equipped with His power to take the stand!

Liz McGraw - Worship Leader

D.P. Smith - Missionary Moments

The new "MS Women's Visionary Team" and others will lead  
small group interest sessions based on the comments from the previous retreat.

Hear the powerful testimonies of Ginger Stewart and Melissa Champine!

...Plus a Mystery Guest!?

#### REGISTRATION FORM

"Transformed-Take The Stand," October 22-23

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Women \_\_\_\_\_ x cost per person = Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Cost: \$50 lodging and three meals, \$28.80 meals only, \$14 no meals or lodging*

*Checks payable to: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.*

*Mail to: Women on Mission Retreat, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571.  
Full refunds until Oct. 18. Linens provided. For more info call WMU 986-3800 or 1-800-748-1651. You may  
register by phone using Master Card or Visa by calling (228) 452-7261.*

## Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association Annual Fall Banquet

**October 26, 1999, 4:45 p.m.**

Skyroom, Baptist Building, Jackson

**Speaker: Robert C. Vickers**

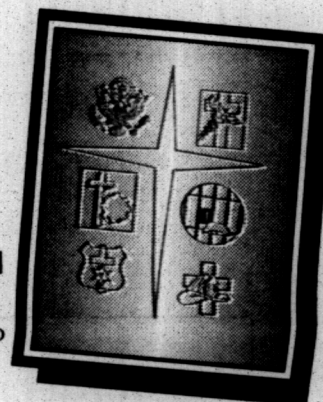
Chaplaincy Manager, North American Mission Board

All chaplains, volunteers and career, are invited to  
join us for good food, fellowship and an update on  
chaplaincy on a national level.

The Banquet is no cost for chaplains who have paid their dues to the  
Chaplains' Association for 1999-2000.

For non-members the cost of the Banquet is \$9 per person. Please order your  
tickets in advance or call and reserve them by October 20.

For more information, call Richard Brogan at 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.



#### REGISTRATION FORM CHAPLAINS' ASSOCIATION FALL BANQUET

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$9 ea. Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to MBCB and mail to: Strategic Initiatives  
Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530



## Movement to Rhythm Made Easy, Easy Dalcroze\* for All Music Leaders and Handbell Ringers

\* *Dalcroze is a method for teaching rhythm. Tim Waugh  
is a master teacher of Dalcroze choirs and handbells,  
integrating the disciplines to produce more confident  
singers and ringers.*

Led by Tim Waugh  
November 12 & 13

Parkway Baptist Church  
Clinton

For more information call the Church Music Dept., MBCB, 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651



Pray this day for...

October 15-28, 1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

*"The church that multiplies committees but neglects prayer may be noisy and enterprising, but it labors in vain and spends its strength for naught."*  
**Samuel Chadwick**

Poverty Awareness Day (CAC). A former worker of a ministry team in a restricted-access country has converted to native religion. He now is giving the names of believers to authorities and a persecution has arisen. Pray that the persecution will backfire and turn many more people to Christ.

Missionary Felix and Dene Greer ask you to pray for the health and well being of the faculty and students of Ghana Theological Baptist Seminary as they participate in another year of study and ministry.

The State Board of Education in Kansas decided to eliminate the subject of evolution from state assessment tests. Pray that the truth about evolutionary theory would triumph over the forces of ignorance that seek to keep people in bondage.

For Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting, Baptist Building, (2) Ministers' Wives Conference, FBC, Jackson (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries), (3) Lay Missions Conference, FBC, Brandon (Witness Team).

For Mississippi Baptist Convention Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building, Pray that the internet would be a powerful tool for establishing the Kingdom of God in the hearts and minds of millions of people around the world.

For Chaplains Annual Fall Banquet, Baptist Building (Strategic Missions), (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention's Annual Meeting, FBC, Jackson.

Missionary Pam Jones in Guatemala asks you to pray that God will call out Guatemalan literacy teachers to help their own people to read. In Western Guatemala, the illiteracy rate is higher than 75 percent.

For Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting immediately following the last session of the convention, (2) Bivo Ministers/Wives Breakfast, Baptist Building (Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries).

For Reconciliation Workshop, Golden Triangle Assn. Office, Columbus (Strategic Initiatives).

A team of Southern Baptists went to Taipei, Taiwan, March 12-18 to conduct training workshops in Disaster Relief and Recovery. They trained the agencies who coordinated the September earthquake relief efforts. God is amazing in providing for the needs of Taiwan.

For (1) African American Church Leadership Institute, Washington Assn. Office, Greenville (Strategic Initiatives), (2) GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa (WMU), (3) Baptist Nursing Fellowship Overnight, Camp Garaywa (WMU).

For Women on Mission Celebration, Gulfshore Assembly. Pray for the Lord to provide an ethnic Chinese who is fluent in Mandarin to help train the growing number of fellowship (house church) leaders in China.

For Quartet/Ensemble Festival, FBC, Richland (Church Music). Pray for the spreading of the Gospel in Russia. Pray that people's hearts will not be hardened because of the terrible events happening in their country. Pray that they will begin to seek the Lord.

Pray for the "MasterLife" group that Missionary Butch Pierce is leading in the Dominican Republic. In the group are six leaders from several churches that have a heart to make disciples and start new churches. Pray that the believers will be faithful in their studies.

## GA/Acteens Campus Days



Blue Mountain College  
 November 13, 10:30 - 4:00

- Missionaries • Basketball • Music
- Testimonies • Cheerleaders

10:30 Registration and campus tour

11:00 Program

12:00 Lunch

2:00 Game Time

**\$7.50** (includes basketball game, meal, program, and limited insurance)

### Blue Mountain GA/Acteens Campus Day Registration (Deadline November 8)

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Assoc. \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

No. people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check to MBCB and send to GA/Acteens Campus Days,  
 WMU Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

For more info call the State WMU Office  
 1-800-748-1651 (in state) or 601-292-3316

## Youth Ministers Workshop 1999

November 8-10  
 Lake Tiak O'Khata

Chris Davis

Richard Ross

Billy Beacham

### Registration Form Youth Ministers Workshop November 8-10, 1999 Lake Tiak O'Khata

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number and Age of preschoolers (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I have made lodging reservations at Lake Tiak O' Khata.

☐ I do not need a room, but will plan to eat the following meals there:

☐ Monday dinner ☐ Tuesday breakfast ☐ Tuesday lunch

☐ Tuesday dinner ☐ Wednesday breakfast

**Please complete this form and mail it to Matt Buckles,  
 MBCB, CAPM Dept., P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205**

**For more information call the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department  
 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800**

HOUSE TOPS



## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Dwayne C. Doyle**, a native of Puckett, and former journeyman missionary to Bosnia, has been named missions education associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention Brotherhood department. Doyle is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He has served churches in Kentucky, Montana, and Mississippi, including Center Terrace Church, Canton, and Wynndale Church, Terry.



Doyle

Ordination services were held at Byram Church, Metro Association, for Nick Hodges. He serves as minister of youth and music at Byram Church. Pictured with Hodges (right) is Roy Maine Jr., pastor.



Maine and Hodges



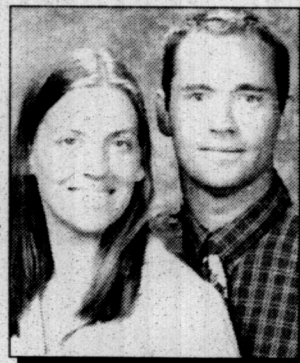
Deacons of Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove

**Walnut Grove Church**, Walnut Grove, ordained new deacons on Sept. 19. Pictured is Dennis Wells, pastor, with Chuck Eason, Baron Gilmore, and Thad Humphries.

**Mantee Church**, Mantee, ordained new deacons August 15. Pictured (from left) are Ken Hester, pastor; Doug Wilson, Pat Carty, and Eddie Norman, new

deacons; and Sam Stone, chairman of deacons.

**The North American Mission Board** appointed Jeff and Beth Kellum to serve in Missoula, Mont. Kellum is a church planter intern. A native of Mississippi, Kellum is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and Southeastern Seminary. She is a native of North Carolina.



The Kellums



Deacons of Mantee Church, Mantee



**Star Church, Star**, ordained Tim Hardacre and Chuck Cooper as deacons on Sept. 12. Pictured (from left) are Vic Bowman, pastor; Hardacre; Cooper; and Tom Edmonson, chairman of deacons.



**Merrill "Mel" Hawkins Jr.**, a native of Starkville, was recognized as this year's Teaching Excellence and Leadership recipient at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn. As an assistant professor of religion, Hawkins becomes the 11th awardee of the College's highest honor given to non-tenured faculty members. Pictured (from left) are Mark Heinrich, acting vice-president for academic affairs; Hawkins; and Carson-Newman president, Cordell Maddox.

## Revival date

**Bayou View Church, Gulfport:** Oct 17-20; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 6:30 p.m.; Keith Fordham, evangelist; Dean and Gayna Forrest, music; Luke the Gospel Hound will lead the children's revival; youth night is Wednesday.

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



GAs of First Church, Richland

sented special awards. Leaders were Julie James, Theresa Fortenberry, Jennifer Pannell, Linda Stringer, Terri Wood, and Carolyn Boteler. GA director is Sandy Ashley. Chuck Herring is pastor.

**Rawls Spring Church, Hattiesburg**, sent a ten member mission team to Valdez, Alaska in July. They spent one week at First Church, Valdez, replacing the roof on the church. Pictured (from



Mission team from Rawls Spring Church, Hattiesburg



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*My husband has an addiction he puts above our marriage and God, and he refuses sternly to give it up. I've thought of leaving him based on 1 Cor. 7:11.*

In dealing with an addiction, one such as yourself must realize the reality of being powerless and then seek out God and others to help on a continuous basis. Have you asked friends to help deal with your husband's addiction and get their input, as well as their involvement, in finding the solution? Will your husband listen to anyone else? This is very difficult for an addict. Regarding the verse you quote, are you willing to remain unmarried for the rest of your life rather than deal with this issue? Getting out is a solution — but will doing so bring you peace, and is that where God is leading you? Are you allowing God to move in this situation? You can't stop the addiction, but you don't have to get sucked into it. Let God be God and open your husband's eyes. Concentrate on being the woman and wife God called

you to be. 1 Peter 3:1 states that you may win him over without saying a word. You have a duty to follow the Lord's leading in your own life and keep your priorities in order.

*Wouldn't it be better if a single person led True Love Waits events, as opposed to a married minister whom the teens know will probably go home and have sex himself? This seems a little hypocritical.*

That's an interesting point. There is a lot of material out now where single people like professional athlete A.C. Green have taken the True Love Waits pledge. There are also married leaders who explain how their pledges to stay sexually pure have made such a difference now that they are married. The problem is that Satan will exploit sex to take people down the wrong road. Stand firm, heed the call for sexual purity (no matter the marital status of the speaker), and maintain a strong relationship with the Savior to carry you through times of temptation.

**First Church, Richland**, held a recognition service for its GAs with the theme "GAs make a world of difference." Nineteen of the GAs completed the adventure levels. Bethany Boteler and Katie Wood (sixth graders) completed all six-adventure levels and were pre-



**Acteens at West Heights Church, Pontotoc**, recently participated in a recognition service for completing all project work in Missionquest. The worship theme was "The Cross and the Crown." Girls participating were Meghan West, Jordan Simmons, Corrie Vitalis, Maggie Long, Gloria Flamenco, Bethany Lee, Lindsey Gable, and Stephanie Munn. Leaders are Carol Gillespie and Little Long.

(left) are John Prine, Carl Swann, John Cockrell, Doug Robbins, Bud Walters, and Carl Knox. Other members not pictured are Jack Davis, Don Elizay, E.P. Quick, and Kyle Everett.

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**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH** of Tuscaloosa, Alabama is currently seeking a Minister of Preschool/Children to lead a fully developed children's ministry. Calvary is located adjacent to the University of Alabama. Seminary degree is preferred. Experience is preferred. Send resume to Preschool/Children Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul W. Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401. (205) 758-0495 for more information.

**FOR SALE:** 1987 Dodge van, 15 passenger, automatic transmission, AC, 360 V8, 67,200 miles, \$4,500; and 1987 Ford bus, 24 passenger, automatic transmission, dual air, 460 V8, 81,000 miles, \$6,500. If interested, call First Church, Long Beach at 228-864-2584.

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## HOMEcomings

**Mt. Carmel, Edinburg:** Oct. 17; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in the fellowship hall at noon; Danny Dodds, speaker; Keith Fulton, pastor.

**East Salem, Leakesville:** Oct. 17; 85th year; 10 a.m.; covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall at noon; afternoon singing, 1 p.m.; Tim McJunkin, pastor, speaker.

**Blythe Creek, Mathiston:** 122nd year; Oct. 17; 10 a.m.; lunch served in fellowship hall; Second Mile, guest musicians; Danny Irvin, pastor, speaker.

**Antioch (Calhoun):** Oct. 17; 10:30 a.m.; lunch served in fellowship hall at noon; Ed Pendergrast, pastor, speaker.

**Gooden Lake, Belzoni:** Oct. 17; 11:00 a.m.; lunch; afternoon singing by Witness Quartet; Robby Britt, Florence, former pastor, speaker.

**Holcomb, Holcomb:** Oct. 17; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch; Bobby Irvin, guest speaker; Randall Ashley, pastor.

**Pleasant Hill (Leake):** Oct. 24; sesquicentennial anniversary; 11:00 a.m., William Kitchings, speaker; dinner on the grounds; 1:30 p.m., Max Jones, speaker; Paul G. Cain, pastor.

**First, Runnelstown:** Oct. 24; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m.; dinner in the fellowship hall; dedica-

tion service for new building and sanctuary, 1:30 p.m.; Henry Freeman, pastor.

**Georgetown, Georgetown:** Oct. 31; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; song service, 1:30 p.m., Todd Stewart, pastor.

**Mt. Moriah, Bogue Chitto:** Oct. 31; "Old Fashioned Day"; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in the fellowship hall; Ronnie Robinson, Director of The Baptist Children's Village, guest speaker;

Danny Moss, pastor.

**Salem Heights, Tylertown:** Oct. 31; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner in the fellowship hall; singing and dedication of the new sanctuary, 1 p.m.; Johnnie Sykes, former pastor, speaker.

**Moselle Memorial (Jones):** Oct. 17; worship and dedication of new sanctuary, 10 a.m.; speaker, Sam Jones, Pascagoula, former pastor; singing, 1 p.m.; led by Reggie and Ladye Love Smith.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Thrasher Church, Prentiss Association,** recently ordained Johnny McCalla and Jeff Johnson as new deacons. Pictured (from left) are McCalla; Kevin Merritt, pastor; and Johnson.



Deacons of Thrasher Church, Prentiss Association

**Green's Creek Church, Petal,** licensed Steven D. Lloyd and Craig M. Routon to the ministry. Pictured (from left) are Lloyd; Michael Routon, pastor; and Routon.



Lloyd, M. Routon, and C. Routon

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**PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH.** Send resume to Search Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 179, Charleston, MS 38921. Call 662-647-5558.

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**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

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## Annuitants Fellowship to meet Oct. 26

The annual breakfast meeting of the Annuitants Fellowship will be held at 7:30 a.m. on October 26 in Fellowship Hall West, First Church, Jackson. Donna Sharp, support specialist with the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, will be the featured speaker.

The event is hosted by the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Deadline for reservations is October 18. For more information, contact the department at (601) 292-3227 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

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# Pastor opening church to people in need

TOPEKA, Kan. (BP) — At 33, Dee Ann Thompson never expected to be living in a group home, hundreds of miles away from her children and all alone



**ENCOURAGING WORDS** — Kenneth Perkins (right), pastor of Clay Street Ministries in Topeka, Kan., encourages Oxford House resident Dee Ann Thompson to remain faithful to Jesus despite her uncertain future. Clay Street is actually many ministries under one roof, all focusing on telling people about Jesus by helping where they are in life, no matter what the circumstances might be. (BP photo)

## Charles Wade tapped for Texas exec.

DALLAS (BP) — Charles Wade, immediate past president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT), was elected as BGCT executive director by the 200-plus-member BGCT executive board at its Sept. 28 meeting in Dallas.

Wade, 58, has been pastor of First Church, Arlington, for 23 years. He will succeed William M. Pinson Jr., who retires Jan. 31. Wade will serve as executive director-elect during a transitional period of orientation.

Wade's election came on a show of hands vote following a search committee's recommendation. BGCT sources said there were about 12 votes against the recommendation although it was not known if all of the nearly 200 members present voted.

Wade and his wife, Rosemary, have one son, Mark; three daughters, Roshelle, Karee, and Mary Robin; and seven grandchildren.

to fight a deadly disease. Her rocky past behind her, her future uncertain, Dee Ann struggles to face each new day.

"My past got in the way of my relationship with God," Thompson is quick to point out, "but today I have a renewed relationship with Jesus. For a long time I felt I was not worthy to have a relationship with God."

Negative influences and bad choices have Dee Ann wondering what life will be like next year, next month, even next week. Diagnosed with Hepatitis C, Thompson is trying to assume a normal life while living in Oxford House, a group home in Topeka, Kan., where Thompson found herself following her release from a chemical dependency treatment center after serving prison time for drug possession.

"Cocaine took me to hell and back," Thompson said. "But now I don't worry about my past. I have to draw my hope from God."

Dee Ann's life is getting on track, thanks to the work of Kenneth Perkins, pastor of Clay Street Baptist Ministries in Topeka. Clay Street is actually Oxford House and many other ministries under one roof, all focusing on telling people about Jesus by helping them where they are in life, no matter what their circumstances might be.

"We are taking the Great Commission to a higher level

by saying whatever your problem is, it is not too great for God," Perkins said.

"When I met Dee Ann, it was so sad, she was so broken," he recalled.

"I saw her and immediately knew she had a God-sized problem. The lady I see sitting here now is someone that God has worked hard to put her life back together," the pastor said while sitting next to Thompson on a couch in Oxford House.

"We helped her pick up the pieces and gave support to her," Perkins said. "God has a calling on her life. She is sharing and ministering in our support group. I see her life as a ministry. There are consequences, but she is doing her best to live for him."

Thompson recognizes her difficult situation. But she smiles and finds words that console her weary mind. At the same time, her words are helping other people understand that Jesus offers something better than her present circumstances.

"It's hard to believe that I might die now after all I've gone through," Thompson said, tears welling up in her big, brown eyes. "But if I do die, I will die clean and sober, but right now I have to live each day as if it were my last."

"The devil meant to destroy Dee Ann's life, but God is using her life now as an example of how to depend on him day to day," Perkins said.

"Living day to day is real to her, especially with an incurable disease," Perkins said. "Clay Street Ministries is about rebuilding lives, those lives that have been shut out and put out, and with God's help will all be put back together."

Perkins draws from his personal experiences in his ministry of putting lives back together.

He was born in Detroit, after his father decided to remove his family from the civil rights violence of Montgomery, Ala., in 1966. Ghetto life in Detroit was an improvement over the violence and death threats for an African American family highly involved with Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement in the South.

The change initially was good for him and his six brothers and three sisters, but eventually inner-city life began to take its toll on the young Perkins.

"At times, inner-city life

grew on me with temptations of drugs and gang life," Perkins said. "In the seventh grade with my older brothers in college, I was challenged. I felt afraid, inferior, with no gang and no support."

His life could have taken dramatic turn for the worse in junior high when he took a gun to school for protection, but luckily never had to use it.

One afternoon Perkins encountered a cross-eyed, funny-looking young man of about 17. Neighborhood kids were teasing the young man because of his awkward appearance. "He seemed to be a person with disabilities because of his appearance," Perkins said.

Perkins thought the young man was having trouble seeing, but when he approached the teenager to ask if he was OK, this funny-looking youth began witnessing to him.

"I had an identity problem and I was trying to be a man at the age of 13. But this young man led me to the Lord," Perkins said.

As the two built a friendship, Perkins soon discovered just how intelligent the young man was and how much Scripture he had memorized even at such a young age.

"As I grew in the Lord, the compassion [God] gave me needed to be used, so I started working for the Lord," Perkins said.

Perkins used his compassion and patience as a police officer in Detroit. His career was going well, but he realized he needed to be involved in the Lord's ministry full time. So he followed his pastor to Topeka and began ministering in his church.

Before long, Perkins was on his own and became pastor of Clay Street.

Clay Street Baptist Ministries focuses on the spiritual, education, and physical needs of individuals. The spiritual needs are met by helping lead people to a personal relationship with

Jesus, group Bible studies and prayer, and discipleship as new believers grow in their relationship with Christ.

From an educational standpoint, the ministry is helping people read, earn a high-school-equivalency diploma or find employment by teaching them the skills needed to find a job. Responsibility training builds character in individuals, teaches parenting skills and how to manage a household as well as abstinence sex education.

Physical needs are being met as the ministry focuses on child care, transportation issues, constructive use of leisure time, support through mentoring, and addictive behavior support groups. Ongoing food, clothing, and shelter needs also are prevalent each day.

A powerful aspect of the ministry is PALS (Prayers Answered, Lives Saved), an outreach to help people with addictive behavior through a Christian-based support group. Men and women who for years have fought drug and alcohol addiction are finding relief from their addictions through a changed life in Jesus and a supportive group of other Christians and former addicts.

"We must be willing to work with the mentally ill, the homeless, second- and third-generation welfare families if we are going to be the last-days church. It's not a shirt-and-collar kind of job, but I like it," Perkins said.

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## LIFE AND WORK

### Experiencing spiritual breakthrough in the family

Gen. 18:18-19; Deut. 6:5-7; Ps. 78:4-8; Eph. 6:4

By Tom Atwood

Distorted truth has produced disjointed relationships and dysfunctional families. The family, as the fundamental foundation for all humans, is routinely disregarded and ignored. Traditional (and Biblical) models for family life are labeled as hopelessly primitive in our post-moral culture. If God's design for the family is to be experienced, there must be a spiritual breakthrough in the realm of the family and the role of the individuals composing it.

**Godly purpose (Gen. 18:18-19; Ps. 78:4-8).** Revealed to Abraham, God's purpose includ-

ed directing his children to follow God's way. The children of Abraham would receive God's promised blessing as they would "keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just" (v. 19). God has chosen them for this very purpose. The Apostle Paul said that we are saved by grace to be "God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works..." (Eph. 2:8-10).

The psalmist declares his intent to tell the succeeding generation of God's wonders, wisdom, word, and will. From the human perspective God's people are always one generation away from extinction. It is imperative



Atwood

keep his commands do so because they have been taught God's ways by the previous generations (v. 7). Abraham was chosen to launch God's directives so that each generation would teach the next (Gen. 18:19).

**Godly precepts (Deut. 6:5-7).** The Israelites were exhorted by Moses to love God with all that existed in them. Inextricably tied to loving God is obeying God, so Moses exhorted them to put them on their hearts - let them impact their deepest being and guide their every decision. Furthermore, they were to teach

God's commandments to their children. They were to teach them everywhere they were ("when you sit at home and when you walk along the road..."). And, they were to be taught in whatever they did ("when you lie down and when you get up...").

Experiencing spiritual breakthrough in the family required this fundamental commitment to teaching God's ways applied to every area of life. Moses suggests several methods for keeping them in the forefront of their consciousness. The ultimate end is that God's word would be their constant companion and lifestyle guide. The future would be dependent on God's directives being faithfully taught to children and grandchildren.

**Godly parenting (Eph. 6:4; Titus 2:4-5).** Parenting, if it is godly, does not come naturally. If children are to be brought up "in the training and instruction of the Lord," then fathers first

must be instructed themselves (Eph. 6:4). Godly fathers are both students of God and teachers of their children.

Paul instructed Titus that older women were to teach younger women. The goal of this instruction is that they would love their husbands and their children, live lives that are morally upright, be kind in nature, and submit to their husbands. The Apostle's prescribed method is that of mentoring. It is an effective tool to teach young mothers to manage their households with love and kindness while maintaining moral purity.

Both fathers and mothers have critical roles to play in developing the lives of children both spiritually and emotionally. Parenting is an awesome task so it must begin with mothers and fathers who love God and love each other.

*Atwood is pastor of First Church, Oxford.*

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Needing God's leadership

Numbers 1:1-10:10

By Sylvia Fleming

Time is drawing near for the United States to have a headcount. Ads are appearing in local newspapers requesting that people apply for jobs as census workers. Just as the United States requires a census, so did God for the Israelites.

For military reasons God wanted Moses to know how many men 20 years of age and older were dwelling among the Israelites. God in his omniscience already knew the number, but is it not amazing that with all of his power he chooses to work through man. God could just as easily have told Moses the specific number in

each camp, but instead chose to let Moses make his own discovery.

Only those able to fight would be counted and God considered 20 to be the appropriate age. Over and over God sought to equip his people to fight, not only in the Old Testament but in the New as well. From the beginning to the end, God prepared his people for war, using many means and devices: the revelation of a band of angels, the dividing of waters, the tumbling of walls. Each victory sustained resulted from man's cooperation with God. With man's refusal, defeat was and is assured (Josh. 7:1-



Fleming

26; 1 Sam. 15:1-11). When the census was taken among the Israelites, all females and males below the age of 20, the aged, ill, as well as the Levites were exempt. Only those most fit for difficult military encounters were needed.

Also, service men in other areas were a must, such as the Levites, under the direction of Aaron, the high priest. Their jobs were servicing the temple, taking care of utensils of varying sizes, setting up, taking down, and carrying the tabernacle. Without the labors of the Levites, the priests could not have adequately performed their tasks. The Levites were absolutely not their own because God had chosen them as gifts to the priests (Num. 3:9).

To do the work of God is his means of teaching his children about himself. As Jesus prayed to the Father (John 17:6), he

said, "I have shown your name unto the men whom thou gavest me out of the world...." Not only did Jesus show the disciples God the Father, but Jesus also spoke of the disciples as a gift the Father had given to him. This verse exemplifies God's right to take his children and give them to whomever he wishes to do his will and purpose.

Though the Levites were set aside for God's service, though the washings-the purification ritual-were carried out, they could not approach God until atonement was made for them. Though we are set aside for God's work, we could never approach God, even indirectly, were it not for our atonement at the cross.

As atonement was made for the Levites by the high priest's entering the Holy of Holies making intercession for them, intercession must also be made for the believer. Jesus' position

in heaven is sitting at the Father's right hand interceding for us (Heb. 10:19,20).

The Israelites were truly the chosen of God. They were the only ones who had the privilege of actually seeing God's Shekinah Glory. When in the form of a cloud, the Israelites followed it by day in the wilderness; when as a pillar of fire, they followed it by night. In Ezekiel's vision he saw it leave the temple and depart the Mount of Olives (Ez. 11:23). Then, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John up a high mountain and was visibly changed in their presence, momentarily resuming the glory he had shed before coming to earth (Matt. 17:1,2). That same wonderful glory the Son shed to become a fleshly babe, to die, rise again, and return to the Father that we might have life eternal, one day we shall see.

*Fleming is a member of Bond Church, Neshoba Association.*

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Renewed purpose

Deuteronomy 1:41-44; 2:1-7, 16-18

By Jerry L. Smith

Have you ever met a "self-made" man? They use words like "I" and "me" instead of "we" or "us." A man that is "self-made" rarely gives credit to God. In his estimation, his success in life has come by his own hands and by his own wit.

Sounds like the Israelites in this week's lesson. After failing to step out on faith and make pulp out of their adversaries in Canaan, they decided that they were going to become a "self-made" nation. Regardless of God's warning that he was not going with them into battle, they threw caution to the wind, proceeded anyway, and were soundly defeated. They learned that engaging the enemy without God's assistance made

about as much sense as going coon hunting without a headlight.

In spite of stiff necks and hard heads, God still had his hand upon the Israelites. He was willing to forgive and forget if they were willing to repent and regroup. He desired to restore them to spiritual health. The same desire that he has for us.

Our lesson outlines God's prescription for reclaiming spiritual health. Notice how God restored Israel to spiritual fitness. He will do the same for you.

**Foolish presumption (1:41-44).** The Israelites made a bad situation worse by trying to conquer Canaan in their own strength. They presumed that God didn't mean what he said or else didn't say what he meant about not



Smith

moving ahead without his presence. Unashamedly, they committed the sin of presumption.

Have you ever presumed upon God? You know, thought that "this one time" wouldn't matter to God? Like sleeping with your co-worker "just this one time" and violating your marital vows? Or doctoring your financial statement "just this one time" to reduce your taxes?

If you thought that "this one time" didn't matter to God, then you've just experienced the first symptom of a major spiritual malady.

**Orderly pilgrimage (2:1-6).** After the Amorites decisively defeated them, God began to nurture his children back to spiritual health. Although their headstrong ways had temporarily disqualified them from possession of the promised land, God had not given up on them. The attempt by God to

restore Israel to fellowship reveals his character. He's a God that never leaves us for dead or fails to forgive when we confess. He's just waiting for us to admit that we're "sick"—something that the Israelites had to learn the hard way.

**Divine provision (2:7).** The Israelites "wasted" 38 years due to their rebellion. As evidenced by their desert wanderings, they suffered the consequences of their lack of faith. Graciously, God provided for them during their sojourn in the desert.

We should remember that poor choices lead to certain consequences, but also remember that God never abandons his children even though they've been disobedient. That would be like disowning your children because they misbehaved.

The consequences of sin are painful, but the pain would be excruciating if we believed that we had sabotaged our relationship (not fellowship) with God by our disobedience. The children of

Israel had sinned, but God never ceased to be their Father.

If you have sinned, and not lived up to God's ideal, then take your medicine and get on the road to recovery. If you'll do this, then you'll be back to spiritual health in no time!

**Continuing purpose (2:16-18).** God continued to work out his purpose for Israel after he restored them to health. The "faith-lackers" had all died off and God was ready to start over with the remnant.

My friend, I don't know what you've done to make yourself spiritually sick, but Jesus is the great physician and can restore your spiritual health. Confess your sin, repent of your ways, and God will give you a clean bill of health. Your ailment has not disqualified you for future service, so get that back-less gown off, put on your spiritual armor, and get back into the battle!

*Smith is pastor of First Church, Summit.*



# S.F. weather doesn't affect TLW teens' spirit

SAN FRANCISCO (BP) — Cold hands, warm hearts could have been the motto of 1,500 teens who crossed the mile-long Golden Gate Bridge Oct. 2 symbolizing their desire to head into the 21st century committed to sexual purity.

Organizers held a rally at First Church, San Francisco, the evening before the public demonstration on the bridge and at a nearby marina greenway. At the rally, True Love Waits co-coordinator Richard Ross of LifeWay told the teens the campaign had gathered enough cards over the last year to stretch the length of the Golden Gate Bridge five times.

"We have enough pledge cards to cross the bridge, not once, not twice, not three times, not four times, but five times. That's five miles of cards," he shouted to frenzied applause.

The Crossing Bridges with Purity emphasis was held within the guidelines of San Francisco law, which limits demonstrations on the Golden Gate Bridge to two hours and does not allow more than 50 demonstrators on at one time.

During the rally, Ross praised the teens for their bravery and insight.

"Teenagers, you have made a difference.

"Laws and policies have changed because of this movement.

"Since 1993, when adults, government leaders, educators, and parents have heard this story of True Love Waits and of the promises teenagers have made, it has affected them; it has changed them," he said.

Teenagers carried stacks of signed pledge cards across the

bridge from 7 to 9 a.m. From 9 to 11 a.m., 415 youth with special assignments walked across the bridge in 15-second increments carrying cards mounted on large poster boards.

Josh Yasuda, a 15-year-old from Castlewood Baptist Church, Vallejo, Calif., was one of the youth who carried a large poster across the bridge. "It was real cool. It was just so neat," he said. "Everyone [driving by] saw you, and you weren't saying anything, but you were a witness for God."

Badru Gardner, 16, a member of First Church, San Francisco, said he took the True Love Waits pledge in late summer while at church camp. Sabrina Lowell, 17, took it along with about 120 others when her church (Castlewood) held a multi-church rally.

Both said they think the best way to keep their pledge is to steer clear of dangerous situations.

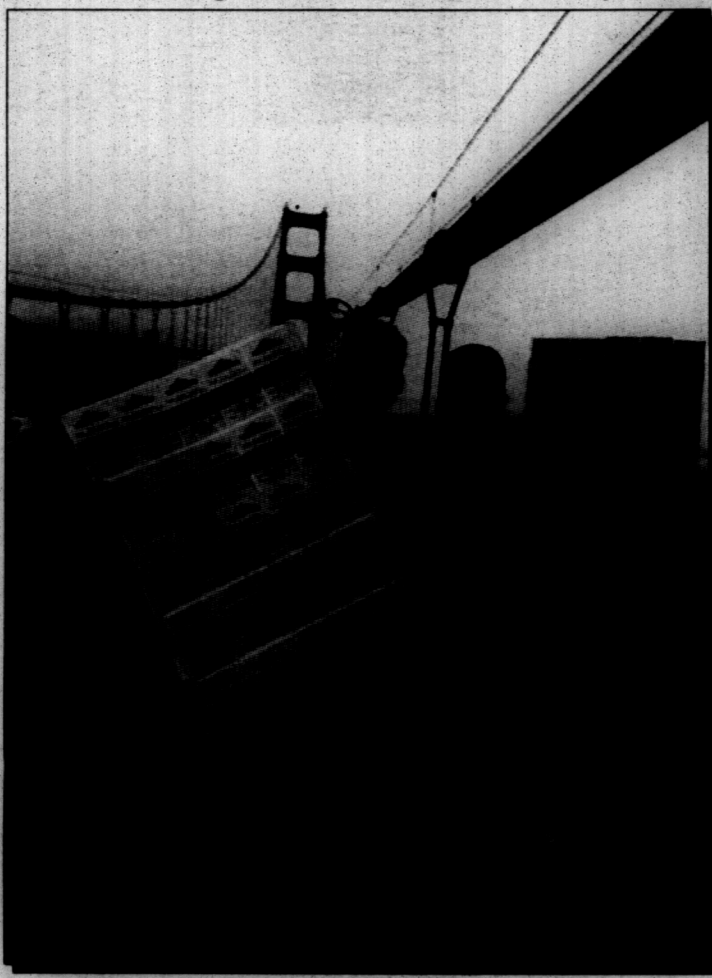
"Really, what you have to do is stay away from situations that get you into that kind of trouble," said Gardner, who is frequently "ragged on" and called "Square" or "Church Boy" by acquaintances.

Ross said the opportunity to participate in a national display changes lives.

"The 1,500 teenagers who were actually standing here in this (mile-long) display (on the Marina Green) will never be the same. They will never forget the images of what God has done through them," he said.



**PRAYING TOGETHER** — Christian students from Riverside, Calif., pray for God to receive glory at the bridge Saturday morning just before setting out to walk the mile long bridge. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)



**FOR ALL TO SEE** — David Lyons and Brian Posey both of Walnut, Calif., walk across the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco to make their True Love Waits commitment visible to the world. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

## Bibliocipher

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HRVU PNHZ QYI PYOAX,  
RTA HIOT HY HZU EYOA:  
XRQ ITHY ZNG, HRVU  
RPRQ REE NTNKINHQ,  
RTA OUBUNFU IX DORB-  
NYIXEQ: XY PNEE PU  
OUTAUO HZU BREFUX  
YC YIO ENJX.

ZYXUR CYIOHUUT: HPY

Clue: I = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Thirty-Nine: Eight.

Chilly temperatures, whipping winds, and early hours did not cool the spirits of teenagers who took part in the latest national True Love Waits campaign, "Crossing Bridges with Purity." Starting at the north end of San Francisco's famed bridge, the kids carried 100,000 pledge cards bearing signatures of teens throughout the nation who have committed to remain sexually pure until marriage.

True Love Waits is coordinated from the Nashville, Tenn., headquarters of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Maura Velasco, a youth group member of Castlewood Church, Vallejo, Calif., compared walking across the bridge to being a Christian. "It's cold out here and we're getting tired, but this is what we do when we face the world.

"These people are driving by us, and they don't know what we're here for. When we go out into the world, most of them don't understand what we are standing for. That's just all a part of our stand to be Christian."

## Students gather in Orlando for CrossSeekers event

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — As thrill-seekers zoomed through the air on roller coasters at Universal Theme Park in Orlando, Fla., across the street several hundred college students took their own ride of faith to seek after the things of Christ.

Many of them committed "to seek Christ through a life of transformational discipleship" during CrossSeekers, a collegiate discipleship conference sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. The regional rally, Sept. 24-26 in Orlando, drew 659 youth and sponsors from five states.

Students who become CrossSeekers on their college campuses agree to hold each other accountable to developing the biblical characteristics of integrity, spiritual growth, witness, service, purity, and Christlike relationships.

This six-point covenant is

the basic biblical foundation for Christian living, Bill Henry, director of LifeWay's National Student Ministry, said. "We want students to know what it means to be in covenant with

God and to be accountable to him and to others."

A majority of the students at the conference attended discovery group sessions to learn more about the CrossSeekers

covenant before deciding whether to make such a commitment.

Other students went to covenant group sessions to learn how to better apply the CrossSeekers principles through establishing ongoing accountability groups.

"Jesus set the example of accountability," said Larry Lawrence, who led a breakout session on the integrity principle. "Jesus was who he said he was, and he always taught by word and example.

In addition to the discovery and covenant breakout sessions, special sessions for student workers, as well as help for juniors and seniors in high school, were held for making the transition to an effective college life and witness.

To learn more about how to be a CrossSeeker, contact (888) CROSS98 or [www.crossseekers.org](http://www.crossseekers.org).



**CROSS SEEKERS** — Jessica Wrenn (left) and Kim Ward from the University of Central Florida join hands in prayer for their campus during the CrossSeekers collegiate discipleship conference in Orlando.